the Himalayas, is an evergreen species with edible fruit which, dried as raisins, is sent down to the plains for sale (Royle); *B. nervosa*, Pursh., is an Oregon species with edible fruit (Howell); *B. pinnata*, Benth. in New Mexico, has blue berries of pleasant taste, sweet with a slight acidity (Bigelow); *B. repens*, Lind., is common in Utah, where its fruit is highly prized (Jones), and is made into confections and freely eaten (Lloyd); *B. trifoliata*, Gray, of Western Texas, has red acid berries, used for tarts (Torrey); *B. vulgaris*, L. was early introduced into the gardens of New England, and increased so rapidly that in 1754 the Province of Massachusetts passed an act to prevent damage to wheat arising from its presence in the vicinity of grain fields. The leaves were formerly used to season meats with in England (Gerarde); and its fruit is now used for preserves. A stoneless variety is sometimes found. There are four kinds known, the common red, large red, purple and white (Bucke). A black fruited variety is said by Tournefort to occur on the banks of the Euphrates and to be of a delicious flavor. *Bongardia Rauwolfi*, C. A. Meyer, occurs from Greece to the Caucasus. The Persians roast or boil the tubers, and eat the leaves as sorrel (A. A. Black). *Nandina domestica*, Thunb., is a handsome evergreen shrub of China and Japan, and extensively cultivated for its fruit, which are red berries of the size of a pea (Don). *Podophyllum callicarpum*, Raf., is said by Robin and Rafinesque, in their Flora of Louisiana, to have fruit the size of a large filbert, sweet, good to eat, and of which preserves are made; *P. emodi*, Wall. of India, has edible berries, but tasteless (Hooker & Thomson); *P. peltatum*, L., is the May apple, the mawkish fruit eaten by pigs and boys (A. Gray), relished by many persons (Porcher), extremely delicious to most persons (Barton), a pleasant fruit (Newport), but to our taste mawkish and disagreeable.

Forestry Notes.

BY F. L. HARVEY.

Catalpa speciosa, Warder. The distribution of *Catalpa speciosa* is of considerable interest, as it has been the belief of botanists that it is not found native west of the Mississippi river north of the Louisiana line. In a former number of the GAZETTE we gave an account of fine specimens, four feet in diameter, growing in the hotel yard, and in the grounds of Judge A. B. Williams at Washington, Hempstead county. If one was not informed that the seeds were introduced from Louisiana he

would be disposed to regard the species indigenous, as it grows plentifully along the streams in that vicinity. The following from the *Hope Radical* will be of interest:

> Mr. John H. Smith was born in 1817, and came to Hempstead county in 1824. In 1831, while a boy of 14 years of age, he carried the mails from Washington, this county, to Natchitoches, La., a distance of 180 miles, on horseback. It required ten days in the saddle to make the round trips, two trips each month. On the Red river he passed a catalpa tree hedge on his frequent trips, and on one occasion filled his pocket with the fluffy seed, and carelessly scattered them in the old court yard in Washington, where they grew, and from that accidental seeding, the catalpa tree owes its present extensive existence in Hempstead county.

If Mr. Smith's account be correct, the oldest trees found in Hempstead county are not over 50 years old, and as there are several about there four feet in diameter, we have another proof that this species makes rapid growth. The trees grow tall and develop a long trunk, which maintains well its size.

It was the impression of botanists that this species occurred native in Southeast Missouri and along the low country of Northeast and East Arkansas, but Mr. John Teas, of Carthage, Mo., who went to that region and investigated, came to the conclusion that it was not indigenous, and that opinion probably still remains.

Not fully convinced, we left the question open in a consideration of the "Forest Trees of Arkansas" in the *Forestry Bulletin* for June. Since the publication of that account investigations in Prairie county, Ark., prove beyond a doubt that it grew in the woods when the country was first settled. Mr. G. W. Letterman informs me that he finds it plentiful in the woods on Black river in Arkansas, considerable timber having been shipped from that region and still plenty of trees remain. Specimens three feet in diameter and 200 years old were secured for the American Museum of New York City.

Crataegus arborescens, Elliott, overlooked in enumerating the Forest Trees of Arkansas in the *Forestry Journal*, is common in the low ground throughout the State, attaining a diameter of 8 inches and a hight of 30 feet.

Crataegus cordata, Ait., common along the streams and swampy places in northwestern Arkansas. Does not bloom until May in this region. Escaped notice until this spring. Attains a hight of 15 feet.

Sophora affinis, Torr. & Gray, credited to Arkansas by the authority of Lindheimer, has been rediscovered by the writer and also by G. W. Letterman in Nevada county, Ark., on the border of prairies near Prescott. Mr. Letterman secured specimens 1 foot in diameter.